THE LEADERSHIP ADVANTAGE

South Carolina's

YF & FFA

Magazine

SUPPORT NATURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL & AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION

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South Carolina's
YF & FFA
Magazine

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On the Cover: A young farmer gets ready to compete at the Antique Tractor Pull in Iva, SC.

Notes from the State Advisor

By Dr. Dale A. Law

Dr. Dale A. Law

Cherry Grove FFA Camp

Many exciting activities are planned for the 1995 camping season. Four theme weeks have been scheduled including Agricultural Science and Technology, Environmental and Natural Sciences, Leadership, and Project Pals. See your advisor for details and to sign up.

Focus on the Future

Several changes in the National FFA Organization's contests and awards programs will be implemented in the 1995-96 school year. The following information briefly summarizes the major changes.

Proficiency Awards

- Proficiency awards will be split into two categories: placement and entrepreneurship

- Award areas will be expanded and many areas will include both categories

- A list of award areas available in 1996 will be printed in the September '95 edition of ***FFA Advisors Making a Difference***

- New applications will contain more essay questions, require less financial data; should be less time-consuming for teachers

- A new ***Agricultural Proficiency Awards Handbook*** covering the program will be sent to all chapters this summer

- New applications and software will be available in September through the National FFA Distribution Team, 703-780-5600

American FFA Degree

- New applications are based on the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)

- Simplified version for students who aren't competing for star awards or national FFA office

- A new ***American FFA Degree Handbook*** covering the program will be sent to all chapters this summer

- New applications and software will be available in September through the National FFA Distribution Team, 703-780-5600

Chapter Awards Program

- Awards structure will be simplified from twelve POA categories to three divisions: Student, Chapter, and Community Development

- National recognition will be provided in all three new divisions

- BOAC and National Safety will be incorporated into the National Chapter award program and application

- A new ***National Planning and Recognition Handbook*** will be sent to all chapters this summer

- New applications and software will be available in October through the National FFA Distribution Team, 703-780-5600

Contests (Career Development Events)

- Terminology will change from "contests" to "career development events" to more accurately communicate the overall benefits

- Cooperative activities will be added to each event

- Definition of team will change: new definition will require all team members to be from the same chapter

- A new ***National FFA Career Development Events Handbook*** will be sent to all chapters this summer.

PLEASE NOTE:

Staff from the National FFA Office will conduct a special workshop for all South Carolina FFA advisors on Thursday, June 29 at the Cherry Grove FFA Camp to cover all the changes in the national awards and career development events. The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. All FFA Advisors are urged to attend.

And now...
A Word from the President

Our year as State Officers has quickly come to an end. We have had a year filled with nothing but fun and excitement. Of course, we had a year full of hard work, too! As you know, this year's officer team managed to publish one issue of the AGriTATER newsletter. (I know we didn't quite meet our goal of one issue every two months, but we did get one out!) At least one State Officer attended each district and state contest. We had hoped that we could all attend each state contest, but scheduling turned out to be a problem. All in all, your state officers have worked pretty hard attempting to accomplish these goals. Even though we didn't accomplish each and every goal we set, we still attempted to do it. I would like to challenge each member of the South Carolina Association to work with the determination and zeal exhibited by this year's state officer team.

Serving as President has been a tremendous responsibility. Fortunately, my load was made lighter by help from my officer team. I'm truly grateful and appreciative of all the hard work and determination shown by my fellow officers. Not only have they been a tremendous help, but the agriculture teachers throughout the state have been more than eager to help us in achieving some of our goals. Without their support and guidance, our Association would surely fall. Thank you for all of your efforts. Most of all, I need to thank you, the individual member for providing me, along with the other officers, the opportunity to serve you! You have allowed your officer team to experience things that we would otherwise never be able to experience. Thank you for that opportunity and the support that you've given to the programs within the Association. I would also like to thank God for watching over us all this year. Without Him, none of us would be here to enjoy all of the things the FFA has to offer.

Once again, I, on behalf of the other officers and myself, would like to sincerely thank each and every person that helps contribute to the success of the South Carolina Association of FFA!!!

PLEASE WRITE!

Your State Officers were chosen to serve your needs as representatives of the South Carolina Association of FFA. Feel free to contact them at the following addresses with program ideas, comments, suggestions, or invitations to chapter activities. They're eager to hear from you!

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FFA

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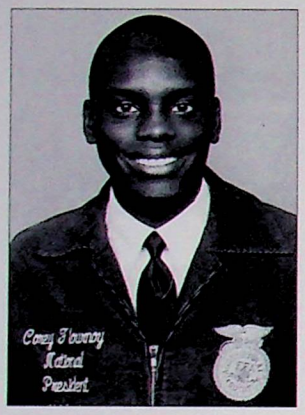
Announcing the 1995 Young Farmer Summer Tour

The Young Farmers Summer Tour, sponsored this year by the Crescent chapter in Iva, South Carolina, will be held Friday, July 21 and Saturday, July 22. James Copelan, agricultural teacher at Crescent High, is still planning the Tour, but knows that Young Farmers will have the opportunity to tour beef, swine, and nursery operations as well as a diversified poultry/beef farm. Mr. Copelan is currently looking at several farms in Anderson County.

We will keep you informed as the Tour draws closer!

National FFA President to Visit State FFA Convention



National FFA President Corey Flournoy

National FFA President Corey Flournoy will visit the 1995 South Carolina State FFA Convention to be held June 7-9 at Clemson University.

A resident of Illinois, Flournoy served as State FFA Vice-President in 1992-93. Active in the dairy foods, agribusiness management, dairy cattle, and extemporaneous/public speaking career development events, he was to become the first place chairperson in the state parliamentary procedure contest in 1991 and was later recognized as the 1992 State Agricultural Processing Proficiency winner.

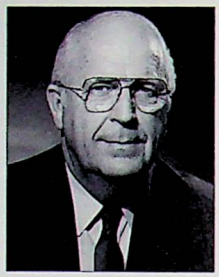
A sophomore at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, Flournoy is pursuing a degree in agricultural economics. Upon graduating, he is planning a career in agricultural marketing and hopes to start his own leadership development consulting firm.

Flournoy has taken a year-long leave of absence from his studies to fulfill his obligations as president. During his year of service, he will travel more than 100,000 miles to promote and enhance agricultural education and the FFA and will meet with national and international leaders of government, education, business and agriculture. He will also travel abroad to participate in an international experience program designed to strengthen relations overseas, and will discuss global agriculture and trade issues.

National Egg Month Celebrated in May

A Tribute to the "Good Eggs" of South Carolina

by Les Tindal, SC Commissioner of Agriculture



Les Tindal, SC Commissioner of Agriculture

Eggs have been a part of the human diet since early history. The Egyptians have been eating eggs since 3200 B.C. and the Chinese since 1400 B.C., and eggs are still an "eggs-cellent" way to start the day. They are loaded with all of the essential vitamins, except vitamin C, and they have many minerals and are low in calories.

May is National Egg Month, and I am pleased to join the South Carolina Poultry Federation and the American Egg Board in saluting the many men and women involved in South Carolina's egg industry for their efforts to produce this nutritious, versatile agricultural product.

Farmers in South Carolina do not "eggs-actly" put all their eggs in one economic basket. Their farms are as diverse as their products. Yet, eggs remain a significant part of our total agricultural economy for the state. The South Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service reports that cash receipts for eggs in the state are about $ 70 million annually, totaling between five and six percent of our entire crop and livestock marketing.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture has long supported the egg industry in our state. The Federal-State Poultry Products Grading Program, a cooperative agreement between the USDA and the SCDA, provides licensed graders and inspectors seven days a week who monitor egg quality and certify size for the four major egg processors in the state. Inspectors in the Poultry Products Grading Service are also responsible for observing egg product handling, processing, pasteurization, and freezing. Last year alone the Federal-State Poultry Products Grading Service graded over 41 million eggs in the Shell Egg Grading Program. The Grading Service ensures that the industry can more capably market eggs for export, institutional accounts, fast food breakfasts, supermarket chains, restaurants, diners, and further processing of hard-cooked and pickled eggs.

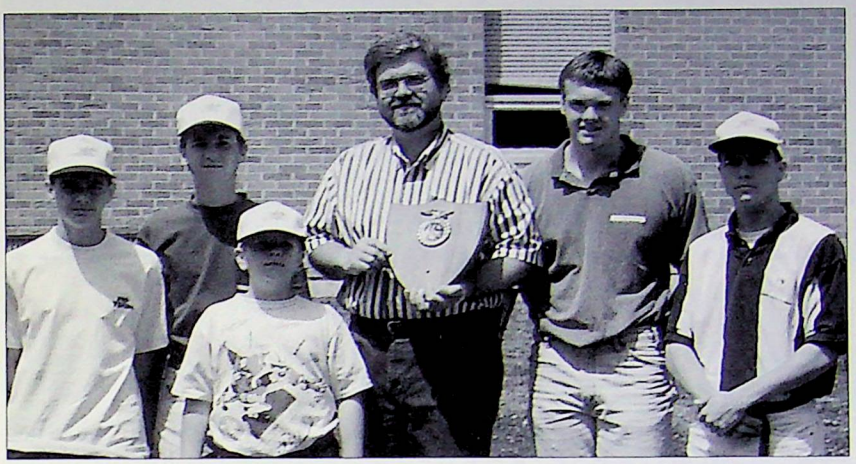
To further ensure that consumers receive the finest quality eggs available, employees of the Consumer Services Division of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture enforce the state's Egg Law through egg inspections in retail outlets and in hospitals, schools and nursing homes. They inspect for proper grade, size and weight; correct labeling; and proper refrigeration and storage. In addition, they also monitor egg hatcheries and smaller egg packers in the state and "candle" eggs for quality.

In my travels around the state I am often asked, "What is candling eggs?" Egg candling is the endangered art or skill of holding and twirling a shell egg with the hand in front of a special light in a darkened area to "eyeball" the interior for quality defects. Our Consumer Services Division candled just under one million eggs and inspected over 15,000 lots representing almost two million dozen eggs last year. That's an "eggs-ceptional" amount of eggs!

The South Carolina Poultry Federation also performs a vital service to the poultry industry in the state. The organization focuses on consumer information, legislative and consumer affairs, and promotion of poultry through all types of events, seminars, and meetings. I commend the members of the Poultry producers, industry employees, allied industry suppliers and "main street" businesses—-which recognize the importance of poultry to South Carolina's egg economy. They, along with our inspectors and graders, each deserve a "pullet"-zer prize for their "eggs-traordinary" efforts.

During this special celebration of the egg—-National Egg Month, I invite every citizen of South Carolina to join me in paying tribute to those involved in each segment of the egg industry—-the "Good Eggs" of South Carolina.

Ware Shoals Wins First at State Forestry Contest



First Place, State FFA Forestry Contest, Ware Shoals FFA - (L-R) Alan Estes, B.J. Prince, Josh Garrett, Advisor Jason Bagwell, Donnie Garret, and Stephen Polbman.

The Ware Shoals FFA chapter received top honors once again at the State Forestry Contest held at Belton-Honea Path High School on Saturday, May 6th.

The team, comprised of Jason Bagwell, Stephen Polbman, Alan Estes, and B.J. Prince, won against fourteen other FFA Chapters represented at the Contest. They will represent South Carolina at the National Contest during the National Convention along with their advisor Donnie Garrett.

Second place went to Berea High School's team, made up of Wes Bryant, George Driver, Phillip Zellner, Jamie Zellner, and Advisor Steven McGraha.

Finishing up in third place was Pleasant Hill, with team members including Wayne Hughes, Mike Sisk, Garret Howard, Ryan Owens, and Advisor Ben Snipes.

In addition to the awards for overall state standings, trophies for the highest individual scores were presented to Wes Bryant of Berea, Ronny Burdette of Belton-Honea Path, and Nathan Gambrell of West Oak.

Assisting students in the competition was the Contest Committee. This committee included Curt Wyman, Dale Mason-Greenville County Forester, Don Robinson and Jimmy Walters-Greenwood County Foresters, Carl Arnold-M.S. Forest Commission (retired), Donnie Garrett-Ag Teacher at Ware Shoals High School, and Glenn Stevens-Ag Teacher at Belton-Honea Path High School.

The Ware Shoals team will continue on to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, MO in November where they will represent the Palmetto State at the National Forestry Contest.

Crescent Young Farmers Pull Off Successful Event with Antique Tractors

Each winner received a trophy, a round of applause, and undeniable "bragging rights".

The Antique Tractor Pull, held April 29th at Crescent High School in Iva, was a "great success" according to James Copelan, agricultural teacher at the school. Sponsored each year by the Crescent Young Farmers Chapter, this year's event featured approximately 65 pre-1960 tractors and was visited by 700 people!

In addition to giving away 200 tickets to the Pull, organizers charged an admission of $5.00 per person. A wide variety of tractors competed in the Pull including John Deere, Farm All, Allis Chamblers and Cock & Shoot. Each tractor had to pull a sled, which ranged in weight from 3200 to 10,000 lbs. The contestant who pulled the furthest distance in their weight class won. A full pull is 200 feet and the closest mark reached was 199 feet and 9 inches. First, second, and third prize trophies, a round of applause and "bragging rights" were given to the winners.

Contest officials measure the distance of the pull made by this John Deere tractor.

A contestant rolls up to the starting line in preparation for the next heat.

By the end of the day, the Young Farmers had raised approximately $2,500.00. However, thanks to the generosity of The Modern Woodmen Insurance Company in Iva and their Matching Fund Program, the Young Farmers netted $5,000.00 total. With this money, they were able to fulfill their goal of purchasing a marquis sign and placing it in front of Crescent High School!

Way to Go, Young Farmers!

Signs of local agribusiness supporters decorate the trailer pulled by the contestants.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

The future of farming depends on the safety and health of its most vulnerable population - the children.

Farming is one of the oldest and most important occupations in existence. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most dangerous.

Each year, thousands of adults and children are injured or die as a result of farming incidents. These may be due to outdated, unsafe equipment or just plain carelessness.

The farm is a place where children live, work and play. Natural characteristics of children such as lack of experience and knowledge, as well as curiosity, can lead to disastrous results.

Childhood injury and death should not be accepted as facts of farm life.

"As adults, we must take every precaution we can to ensure the health and safety of our children. Farms are excellent places to raise children, but we must educate and train our youth to make safe decisions. Children are not small adults; we need to give them farm chores that are appropriate for their age and abilities."

- Marilyn Adams, President & Founder

In the fall of 1986, 11-year-old Keith Algreen suffocated in a gravity flow wagon of corn on his Iowa farm. After his unforeseen death, his family began a campaign to promote awareness by distributing danger decals for gravity wagons through local FFA chapters. Upon realizing the consuming public demand for farm safety information, Marilyn Adams, Keith's mother, formed the non-profit organization, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, in October of 1987.

Since the inception of the organization there has been a phenomenal response from people throughout North America. Mail and phone calls from across the United States and Canada are received daily for farm safety information and merchandise available from the headquarters. The organization distributes materials such as videos, danger decals, T-shirts, activity books and other educational and promotional items. FS4JK conducts several educational programs each year, but also provides technical assistance to those who wish to conduct their own farm safety programs.

To date, FS4JK has attracted over 2000 members and 44 chapters who work in communities throughout North America to promote the safety of children on the farm. Realizing that awareness and education are essential to making difficult tradition changes in both the attitudes and behaviors of the farming population, FS4JK strives to facilitate these changes by providing program services which include resource development and distribution, networking, presentations and workshops, and community training. Videos, literature, decals and displays are also available to assist in providing farm safety education.

If you are interested in becoming a member of FS4JK or would like to join or start a chapter in your area, contact the National Farm Safety 4 Just Kids headquarters at P.O. Box 458, Earlham, IA 50072-0458. Phone: 1(800) 423-KIDS. Membership fees are just $15.00 for an Individual/Family Membership or $25.00 for a Business/Organization Membership. In addition to personal satisfaction, benefits include a quarterly newsletter subscription, special member pricing on items ordered from Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, and a proud supporter window decal.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

The Nation's Deadliest Occupation: AGRICULTURE!

Agricultural deaths dropped nationally for the second consecutive year. However, agriculture continues to be the nation's deadliest occupation.

According to the National Safety Council, there were 35 deaths per 100,000 workers in agriculture in 1993 compared to 37 in 1992. This marked the third consecutive year and the ninth time in the last 10 years that agriculture has had the highest rate of accidental work deaths.

Agriculture's rate compares to 33 for mining and quarrying, and 22 for construction. Mining and quarrying was the only one of the three occupations to see an increase in the death rate in 1993. It rose from 29 deaths per 100,000 in 1992.

Nearly 1,100 farmers, ranchers and others involved in agriculture were killed on the job in 1993. Another 130,000 suffered disabling injuries. This does not include the estimated 300 children under the age of 14 who were killed in agricultural-related accidents.

Over the past seven years, the death rate for agriculture has plummeted by nearly 29 percent.

"The safety efforts of the agricultural community are paying big dividends," says Doug Sommer, a safety education specialist with the Country Companies insurance group.

"Farmers and ranchers are becoming more aware of the dangers involved in their profession." says Sommer. "In addition, manufacturers are using technology to upgrade equipment and make products safer."

Even with the drop in deaths, Sommer says there are still too many people dying on America's farms and ranches.

"It's vital that we continue stressing the retrofitting of older tractors with rollover protective structures, the use of personal protective equipment and safety education," the safety specialist says.

Safety isn't expensive, but deaths and injuries are. Last year, deaths and injuries cost U.S. agricultural producers more than $4.3 billion.

AGRICULTURAL WORK DEATHS
(1983-1993)

1983	1,800	1989	1,300
1984	1,600	1990	1,300
1985	1,600	1991	1,400
1986	1,700	1992	1,200
1987	1,600	1993	1,100
1988	1,500		

Source: Deaths based on National Safety Council estimates of all accidental deaths of persons who live on farms.

Abstracted from the National Safety Council's 1994 edition of Accident Facts.

TRACTOR FATALITY RATES ON THE FARM

Overturns have the highest fatality rate for unintentional tractor injuries occuring on the farm, according to reports from 29 states covering more than 66 percent of the tractors in the U.S. In 1993, overturns accounted for 55 percent of all on-the-farm tractor fatalities reported, with an annual rate of 4.1 deaths per 100,000 tractors.

For all tractor fatalities combined, projecting the overall rate of 7.5 deaths per 100,000 tractors in this sample to the nation's approximately 4.62 million tractors yields an estimated 351 tractor-related deaths on farms nationwide in 1993.

Tractor fatalities on the farm by type of accident, 1980-1993

YEAR	PERCENT OF DEATHS			
	Overturns	Runovers	Power takeoffs	Other
1980	48	29	8	15
1981	58	20	7	15
1982	49	20	4	27
1983	58	22	1	19
1984	52	29	2	17
1985	51	26	7	16
1986	44	23	6	27
1987	52	24	3	21
1988	44	29	7	20
1989	55	15	2	28
1990	52	33	3	12
1991	47	30	4	19
1992	53	25	3	19
1993	55	23	4	18

Source:Deaths based on vital statistics and individual case reports by state agricultural safety specialists; tractors based on U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1987, estimated for 1990 by Implement & Tractor. Abstracted from the National Safety Council's 1994 edition of Accident Facts.

FARM RESIDENT ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1993

Total deaths = 2,400

Motor vehicle*	900	Home	450
Motor vehicle/Work**	200	Other	250
Work***	600		

* Does not include motor vehicle deaths in work activities.
** Motor vehicle deaths in work activities.
*** Does not include motor vehicle deaths.

Source: Deaths based on National Safety Council estimates of all accidental deaths of persons who live on farms. Abstracted from the National Safety Council's 1994 edition of Accident Facts.

Causes of Agricultural Injury

- According to a review of agricultural injury studies, between 1/3 and 1/2 of fatal farm injuries involve tractors.[1]

- In 1992, tractor overturns accounted for the majority of tractor-related deaths.[2]

- The Regional Rural Injury Study, conducted in a five-state region by the University of Minnesota in 1990, showed the following distribution of injury causes among study participants.[3]

30%	were associated with livestock
20%	machinery
8%	tractors
7%	surfaces and stairs
6%	each category of small power equipment and other vehicles
3%	storage structures
1%	chemicals
19%	other causes

[1] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Employment and Earnings*, Vol. 40, No. 1, January 1993.

[2] Oliveria, V., Cox, E.J. The Agricultural Work Force of 1987: A Statistical Profile. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Agriculture, Report No. 609, 1992.

[3] National Safety Council, *Accident Facts*, pg. 106, 1993.

Announcing New FFA Foundation Board Members

Congratulations to Mr. Hugh McClimon of Columbia and Mr. Earl Frick, Jr. of Florence who were elected to three year terms on the Board of Directors of the South Carolina FFA Foundation at the Board's Annual Meeting on December 9. Mr. McClimon replaces Mr. W.C. Bowen of Clemson and Mr. Frick replaces Mr. W.R. Carter of Walterboro, both of whom retired from the Board after many years of service to the FFA and agricultural education in South Carolina.

Mr. Ray Johnson of Walterboro, Mr. Frank Stover, Sr. of Pelion and Dr. Lloyd Blanton of Clemson were reelected to three year terms on the Board. Continuing members include Mr. Dennis Haltiwanger of Chesnee (1995), Mr. Michael Haynes of Manning (1995), Mr. Jack Queener of Branchville (1996), and Mr. Danny Breakfield of Chester (1996). John Helms, State FFA President, and Dr. Dale A. Law, State FFA Advisor serve as ex-officio members of the Board.

New officers of the Board are as follows:

Mr. Hugh McClimon - Chairman;

Mr. Earl Frick, Jr. - Secretary;

and

Mr. Frank Stover, Sr. - Treasurer.

A Child's Development Shown to Affect Farm-Related Injuries

A farm or ranch is a great place to grow up. But chores assigned to children must be appropriate to their age and development. Otherwise they may get hurt.

"A child's developmental stages have a great influence on the tasks they should be assigned," says Doug Sommer, a safety education specialist with the Country Companies insurance group.

Sommer says as children grow, their minds along with their motor skills gradually develop, and they can handle increasingly more complex tasks. However, parents often overestimate their children's abilities and assign tasks too demanding for them to complete.

Like Sommer, Dr. Richard Clark, a professor at Ohio State University, is concerned with child safety. In his talk, "Developmental Characteristics of Children," at the 1994 summer meeting of the National Institute of Farm Safety, he identified four stages of child development: under six; six to 11; 12 to 14; and 15 to 18.

Clark believes children at each stage have their own strengths and limitations, for example, their reaction times.

"The reaction time for a five-year-old is three times slower than a 17-year-old," says Clark. These children also have no fear of getting injured during a task — they basically act without thinking. They do not understand the dangers involved with climbing a grain bin ladder or playing around operating machinery without supervision.

"Children under six can, though, be given simple tasks, such as watering plants and feeding small animals like cats and dogs, if the food is measured out," says Clark.

Parents can provide less supervision for children aged six to 11. However, parents should take caution and not expect a children to complete some tasks by themselves.

"At this stage, parents still overestimate the child's ability level," says Clark. "They have to experience being there."

Sommer agrees with Clark, and also emphasizes the overconfidence of children this age. "These children also overestimate their own abilities and feel they can handle such tasks as spreading the fertilizer or pesticides by themselves," he says. "Orally instructing them simply doesn't work, you must show them."

Fatigue is also a danger, for when children get fatigued, they are quite vulnerable to being injured with any task.

Sommer recommends this age group should not be given tasks which require accuracy or high quality work. They can complete tasks which require using hand tools, but have less success with power tools. However, parents must be aware that children have poor eye/hand coordination which can prevent them from safely using a saw or hammer.

Children from 12 to 14 feel immortal. They take the most risks of all age groups.These children don't take responsibility for their actions, according to Sommer.

"They could very likely climb into a grain bin and walk on top of the crusted corn thinking they can't fall in. Before they know it, though, they can sink into the corn and suffocate," says Sommer.

Some children of these ages are also rebellious, rejecting ready-made solutions. They would prefer doing the opposite of their parent's instructions just to spite them, Sommer adds.

At this age, the children want to accompany adults during farm work and do adult type tasks. "They tend to be great project starters but some are poor finishers," Clark says. "These children must be very interested in completing a task or they will not complete it. To them, tasks are either interesting or boring."

They can have limited power tool use with supervision and can use hand tools without supervision.

"However, they may not be physically prepared to handle a task such as driving a tractor, especially when something goes wrong," says Clark.

Children from age 15 to 18 still are not quite as developed as adults. However, they feel their size and age can substitute for their ability. They are quite competitive, independent, aggressive, and some are rebellious.

They can handle some adult tasks, such as operating a tractor or working on a grain bin. "It is important to remember that they need to gain the experience of completing adult tasks but with supervision from an adult," says Clark.

Children of farmers and ranchers can help on the farm or ranch. However, it's important that parents only give their children tasks that are appropriate for their age. As children gain more experience, parents can gradually increase the complexity and difficulty of their tasks.

SOUTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL FESTIVALS SUMMER 1995

June 17
Ridge Peach Festival, Trenton

June 18-25
Hampton County Watermelon Festival, Hampton

July 4
Lexington County Peach Festival, Gilbert

July 14-23
S.C. Peach Festival, Gaffney

July 21-23
Pageland Watermelon Festival, Pageland

Ed Brown Rodeo, Blacksburg

August 11-12
Young Farmers Truck & Tractor Pull, Saluda

August 1
S.C. Peanut Party, Pelion

For more information on these and other South Carolina agricultural events, contact the Department of Agriculture or the State Welcome Centers.

1995 FFA Agricultural and Environmental Show for Preschoolers Deemed A Success

The 1995 FFA Agricultural and Environmental Show for Preschoolers, held Thursday, May 4, was deemed a bonafide success for members of the Furman-Manchester FFA Chapter, who sponsored and carried out the show. Five ag classes were organized into mini-chapters and the presidents of the mini-chapters served as members of the BOAC (Building our American Communities) Committee. The BOAC Chairperson was then elected by the committee.

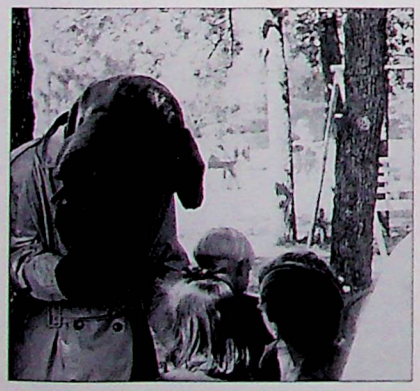
Videos of past Agricultural and Environmental Shows were viewed by each class and students were asked for suggestions to make the next shows even better. New ideas for upcoming shows included an exhibit from the South Carolina Wildlife Commission, the Furman JROTC Drill Team demonstration, the FFA Band and Furman Choir performances, sign in sheets for students, and more horses for the horse rides.

Community involvement included telephone calls and letters to community businesses and industries, a visit to the Mayor's office, the city manager, and WRJA-ETV station. Driving from McBee to help and serve as a guide was John Helms, our State FFA President. This was John's first visit to the event. John told news reporters how impressed he was by the organization of the show, "I am amazed that a chapter was able to pull off an event of this size. This is something that would be quite challenging to accomplish at the state level."

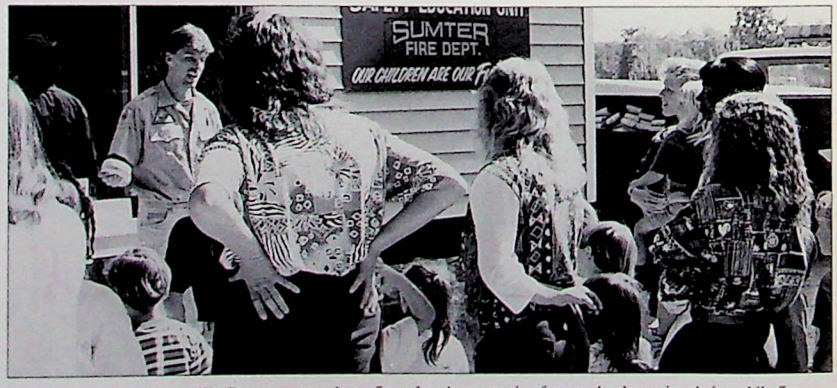
After long exciting rides from their schools in Sumter, Lee, Clarendon, Kershaw and Williamsburg counties, the preschoolers arrived in the parking lot of

Members of the Furman High School ROTC conduct the rising of the flags ceremony to kickoff the beginning of the environmental show.

FFA member Kim Hodge and this albino python were a big attraction at the show, particularly for these students from Aunt Susan's Play House.



Robert Kelso and McGruff the Crimefighting Dog visit with kindergarteners from Grace Baptist Church.



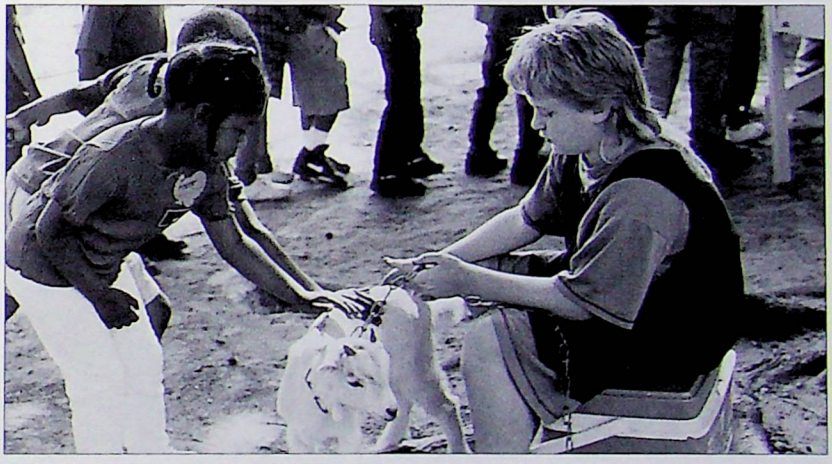
Firefighters from the Sumter Fire Department conduct a fire safety demonstration for preschoolers using their mobile fire education unit.

New Bethel Baptist Church and walked down the country road to the Old Spain Ranch, home of Advisor Drefus Williams and the location of the event. The excitement of the blue and gold FFA streamers waving through the trees, the music and the friendly atmosphere brought smiles at first sight. The preschoolers met their guides who were volunteers from other school organizations, senior class students at Furman High, FFA members and community retirees. After an introduction by BOAC Chairperson Johnny Houston, the preschoolers left to pet farm and exotic animals, view exhibits, and watch demonstrations performed by the Furman JROTC Drill Team and Color Guard as well as the Sumter Police Department Mounted Patrol. However, the most popular moments were experiencing the excitement of riding a horse, and taking a hayride around the ranch.

The fun continued with a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog and the famous Smokey Bear who both stopped to pose for pictures with the children. In all, the success of the1995 FFA Agricultural and Environmental Show for Preschoolers could not have been possible without the help of the following agencies: Carolina Coca-Cola, Carolina Golden Products Hatchery, Manchester Quail Farm, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Sumter County Fire Department, Cleve Ardis Farm, Moses Dubose Farm, Harry Lesane Farm, Julian Nixon Farm, Sumter County Police Department, South Carolina Wildlife Commission, The Item, Agricultural Advisory Committee, WRJA Educational Television, Nettles Kubota Hardware, Palmetto Gas Corporation, Sumter Western Star, the Sportsman Stop-N-Shop, Food Lion Incorporated, Simpson Hardware, the Crosby Agency, New Bethel Baptist Church for their parking lot, restrooms, and donation, and other community volunteers.

The day ended with smiles from preschoolers, and a feeling of accomplishment from FFA members and others who helped. Even after the last rooster crowed, the last hayride was given, and the last song was sung, the memories from the day linger on.

It was standing room only for those waiting for a turn to climb into the driver's seat of this Massey Ferguson tractor.



Getting close to the animals gave many children the opportunity to truly experience farm life.

Exhibits like this one gave mothers and babies from all walks of life the opportunity to visit together.

State FFA President John Helms, Furman-Manchester FFA President Jennifer Newman, and environmental show co-director Johnny Houston are interviewed by Brenda Zilch from District II Headquarters for educational television.

Make Plans To Attend the 68th Annual State FFA Convention!

Don't miss the 68th annual South Carolina State FFA Convention to be held June 7-9 in the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts at Clemson University.

Among the exciting events planned are the Vesper Program hosted by the state officers, speeches, musical selections (including a performance by President John Helms), scholarship presentations, FFA alumni scholarship and raffle winner announcements, door prize drawings, and award presentations.

Keynote speakers will include "Taking the T Off Can't" by Mr. Bob Moore, "Past to Remember, Future to be Written" by State Vice President Grier Sandifer, "Building Our American Communities" by Chief of Farmer Programs, Mr. Wesley Harris, and several others.

Additional activities include career development events, a drop-in dance, and the election of officers for 1995-96. So don't miss out on the fun and look for a wrap-up of the convention in the next issue of ***YF & FFA Magazine***.

Here is a brief synopsis of the convention agenda:

Tuesday, June 6

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Early registration
	Nominating Committee meeting
	State FFA Officers Leadership Training
5:00 p.m.	Dinner-Just More BBQ

Wednesday, June 7

10:00 a.m.	Registration
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Delegate Orientation
2:30 - 5:30 p.m.	FFA Advisory Council and SC FFA Foundation Meetings
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:45 p.m.	Welcome Activities
7:00 p.m.	Vesper Program
7:15 p.m.	First General Session

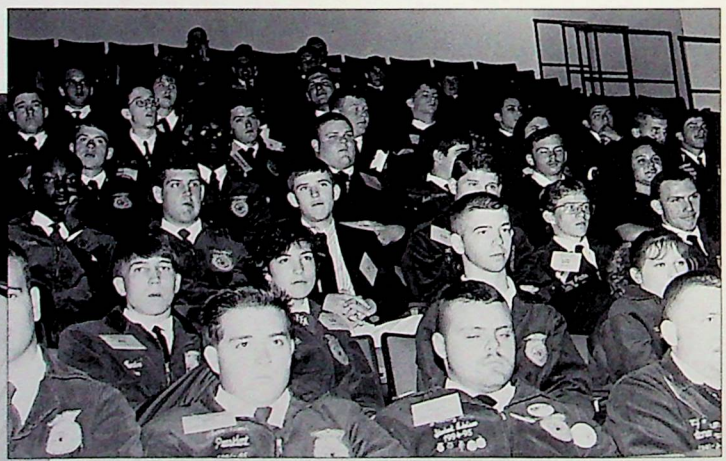
Thursday, June 8

8:30 a.m.	Second General Session
10:00 a.m.	Recess
10:15 a.m.	Second General Session (continued)
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Career Development Events
5:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Third General Session
9:00 p.m. - midnight	Drop-In and Dance

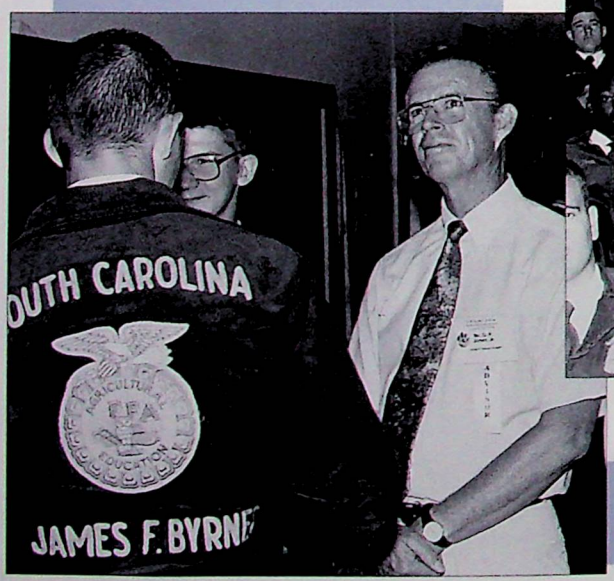
Friday, June 9

8:30 a.m.	Fourth General Session
12:30 p.m.	Luncheon

See You There!



With the large number of FFA members who attend the state convention each year, convention sessions usually produce a packed house!



FFA Chapters like this one travel from around the state to attend the annual convention in Clemson each June.

South Carolina FFA Alumni News

Prepared May '95 by the SC FFA Alumni Association, Inc., Arthur Jensen, Executive Secretary/Treasurer

Mark July 23 on your Calendar Right Now

Our plans on holding our annual meeting on Sunday evening July 23 at Clemson prior to the Agricultural Teachers Conference are materializing really well. We plan to start our business at 4:30 p.m. We have scheduled Mrs. Shirley Carte, our Southern Regional FFA Alumni Representative to attend and speak to us. We have also invited Dr. Curris though at the time of this writing he has not taken office and we do not know if he will be able to attend or not. Our affiliates are to give us a report as to what they have been doing this past year and what their plans are for the coming year. We will have a report on the result of the raffle and the plans of beginning teacher conferences. We will also elect council members to replace those going off this year. There are other events that are in the development stage that hopefully will prove exciting. Make every effort to attend. The suggestion has been made to us to vote at the beginning of our meeting to see if we take a Dutch Treat dinner break at the student dining hall, or complete business and then go on for a leisurely dinner on our own or in small groups wherever we so desire. At any rate, we should be through before 8:30, or perhaps considerably before if we complete business prior to eating. The meeting will be held in the P&A building. The room number will be posted at the front entrance. We hope you will make it a point to join us. We really need your ideas and moral support.

Summer is a Good Time to Start That Affiliate

With the uncertainty of federal and state funding at the time of this writing, having a strong local FFA Alumni affiliate may well be one of the best ways for survival. The state association can be no stronger than the locals. They are the backbone of our united effort. Take the last copy of your FFA/Young Farmer magazine and review the outline for starting an affiliate. Then proceed. If you need help, give your regional council member or your Exec. Sec./Treas. a call. They will be glad to help you. They include:

Nancy McCannon,
President
(803) 261-6018

John Carroll Wates
(803) 275-1767

Benjie Rhoad
1 (800) 628-4571

Gilmore McManus,
Vice President
(803) 264-8315

George Ulmer,
Recording Secretary
(803) 536-1553

John A. Helms
(803) 335-8580

Chris Edge
(803) 222-4591

Arthur Jensen,
Exec. Sec./Treas.
(803) 654-4649

Dr. Dale Law
(803) 734-8426

Dr. Curtis White
(803) 656-3300

Membership Dues in Order for 1996

Membership dues for 1996 are in order at any time now. The deadline is September 30, but those paid early are appreciated. It helps to decrease the last minute job of getting everything together. Annual dues are still $11 and life memberships are $150. If you are trying to get a number of memberships, dust off the Legion of Merit form that was attached to the January newsletter or in your FFA Alumni manual. It would be great for South Carolina to have 50 or 100 of those this year.

Enclosed find payment of $_____
for _____Life_____Annual dues for 1996

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Send payment to: SC FFA Alumni, 102 Daleview Circle, Clemson, SC 29631-2338.

HAVE A GREAT, JOYOUS, SAFE, AND PRODUCTIVE SUMMER!

Wagener-Salley Wins the State Livestock Competition for the Second Year in a Row

For the second year in a row, Wagener-Salley High School beat out 19 other teams from South Carolina to win top honors at the State FFA Livestock Judging Contest. Allison Cook, Dewey Maugurgley, Jamie Poole and Lorie Payne were the state winners in the competition, held April 8th at T. Ed Garrison Livestock Arena at Clemson University.

As the state winners, each member of the Wagener-Salley High School team won a plaque and a free trip to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City Missouri in November to compete in the National Livestock Contest at the American Royal Livestock Show.

Allison Cook and Dewey Maugurgley also received individual awards, with Allison Cook receiving First Place and Dewey Maurgurgley winning Third Place. Jamie Sandifer from York High School was awarded with Second Place.

Top district honors went to the Pendleton Chapter with Advisor Al Gray, followed by the Clover District with Advisor Chris Edge. The Third Place District Winner was the Britton's Neck Chapter with Advisor Telly Pace, and rounding out the winners was Wagener-Salley High School with Advisor Allen Williams.

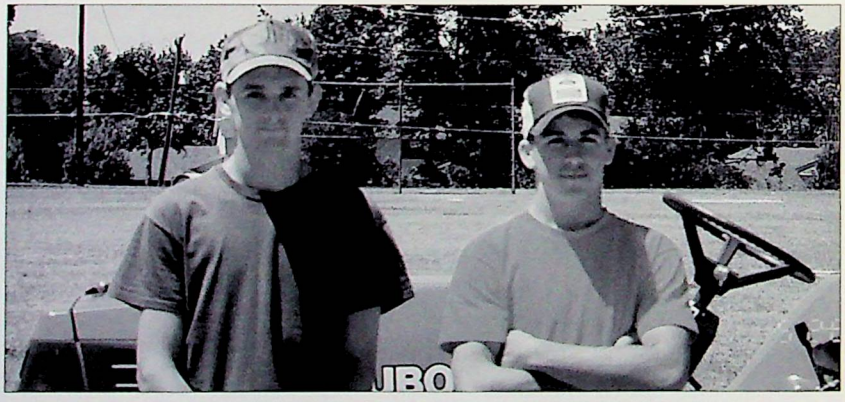
Each of the individual and district winners received plaques for their performance. Hosted and sponsored by the Clemson Block & Bridle Club, the contest is an excellent way for students to capitalize on the livestock selection and grading skills learned in the classroom.

Travelers Rest High School Takes First Place in Tractor Driving Contest

On Saturday, May 20th, twelve FFA chapters competed in a tractor driving contest sponsored by Travelers Rest High School. The contest tested students' safety knowledge and driving ability.

Kevin Compton of Boiling Springs FFA placed first in the individual placing and won $150.00. Kevin Ferguson of the Dixie FFA chapter claimed second place and $75.00 and Jason Snipes finished third and collected $25.00. The Travelers Rest Chapter won first place and $250.00. Belton-Honea Path High School finished second while Dixie High School placed third. Rogers Kubots supplied the tractors used for the contest.

Jason Williamson of the Belton-Honea path FFA Chapter drives through the obstacle course at Travelers Rest High School.



Pictured: (L) Kevin Compton of the Boiling Springs FFA placed 1st in the FFA Tractor Driving Contest. (R) Kevin Fergeson of Dixie FFA Chapter finished 2nd in the Tractor Driving Contest.

Interested in advertising in South Carolina's YF & FFA Magazine?

For more information on ad rates and availability, please contact Ed Crosby at (803) 781-5151.

FFA Summer Camp Fast Approaching!

Attention FFA'ers! Summer Camp will be starting soon in Cherry Grove, South Carolina. To get you ready, we've outlined the themes for each week of camp:

June 12-16	Environmental and Natural Resources
June 19-23	Agricultural Science and Technology
June 27-30	FFA Chapter Leadership Conference
July 5-7	Project PALS

We will see you there! As many of you already know, long-time Camp Director H.C. Edens will be retiring May 31st. As a tribute to him and all the years he has spent working with FFA campers, we will be featuring him in the next issue of South Carolina YFA and FFA Magazine. Don't miss it!

Third Graders get WILD with a study of Cowboys of the Wild West

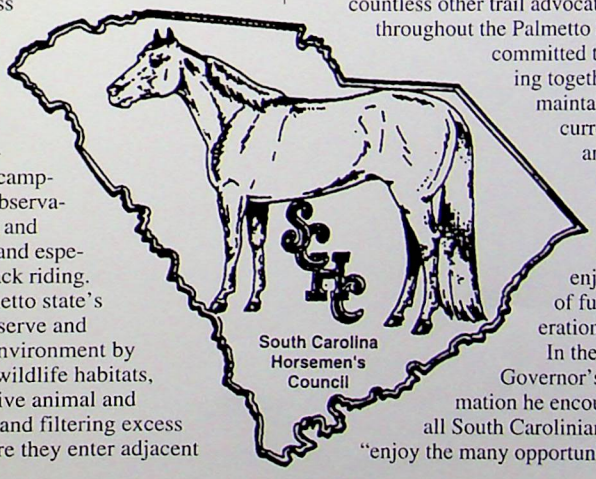
Three Manning Elementary teachers are taking advantage of children's natural love of cowboys and horses. Children read a book entitled, "Cowboys of the Wild West". They learned about the cowboy's real way of life. They also did the map study of the western trails such as the Goodnight-Loving trail. The students compared and contrasted the importance of the horse to the cowboys of the 1800's and how the horse is used today. A class trip to a local cutting horse trainer helped show the students some of the jobs of the horse as well as introduce the sport of today. The cowboys and cowgirls celebrated passing vocabulary and comprehension tests with a Fall Round-Up. Cowboy games, roping a steer head and chuck wagon food prepared and served by Moms finished this unit of study.

Governor Proclaims June 3 As National Trails Day in South Carolina

On June 1, 1995 Governor David Beasley signed an official proclamation declaring Saturday, June 3 as National Trails Day in South Carolina.

South Carolina has more than 750 miles of trails which provide endless opportunities for outdoor recreation including walking, bicycling, hiking, camping, wildlife observation, canoeing and backpacking, and especially, horseback riding.

The Palmetto state's trails help preserve and improve the environment by safeguarding wildlife habitats, protecting native animal and plant species, and filtering excess nutrients before they enter adjacent waterways. The South Carolina Horsemen's Council, the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the United State Forestry Service along with countless other trail advocates from throughout the Palmetto State are committed to working together to maintain the current trails and to develop more trails for the enjoyment of future generations.



In the Governor's proclamation he encourages all South Carolinians to "enjoy the many opportunities our trails provide" and to "help strengthen efforts to preserve the natural, scenic, and recreational qualities of our trails". The South Carolina theme for National Trails Day is "Create, Clean, and Ride". "To support the theme," said Verida Marchette, Trails Committee Chairman for the South Carolina Horseman's Council, "saddle clubs in the upper part of the state are creating new trails in the Sumter National Forest, clubs in the central part of the state are cleaning up the trails within their state parks, and in the lowcountry saddle clubs are holding trail rides to benefit the charities. It's a win, win situation for everyone."

Blanchard Poole, President of the South Carolina Horseman's Council, said, "Trails are an important part of our equine industry which plays a vital role in our state's economic progress. Celebrate National Trails Day in South Carolina by riding through one of the state's scenic trail routes with the family. Then make trail riding a habit!"

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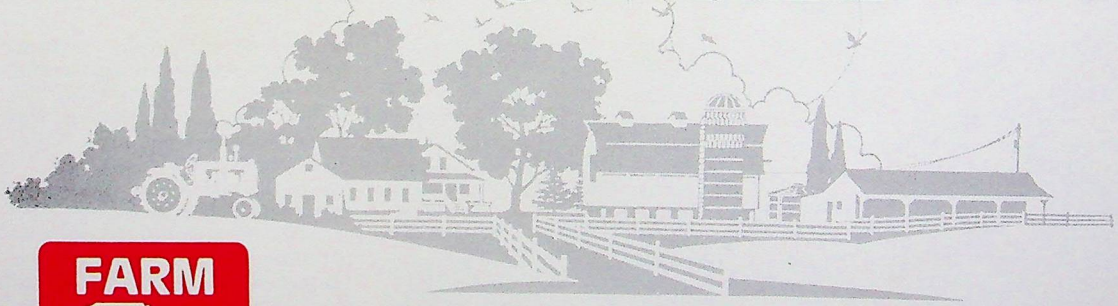

FARM BUREAU

Ever since its beginning in 1944, South Carolina Farm Bureau has been speaking out for farmers as their Voice of Agriculture.

As a new generation of farmers face the challenges of the 90s and beyond, Farm Bureau will continue to meet the needs of its members—whether it be lobbying for equitable legislation, helping to market commodities more effectively, telling the farmers' story, or by providing a full range of insurance services to meet the particular needs of farm families.

A Proud Tradition — An Even Brighter Future!